4. Testing facilities at Central and State laboratories have been upgraded and new drug testing laboratories have also been established so as to enhance the capacity of the laboratories to test large number of samples. Under a Capacity Building Project, 23 States and 6 Central Drug laboratories have been strengthened through renovations, extensions and provided with State of art equipments.

5. Schedule M to the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945, pertaining to Good Manufacturing Practices was amended in 2001 to make it mandatory, and at par with the international standards, for the manufacturers of drugs to comply with the requirements of this Schedule for quality control of the drugs manufactured by them. The amended Schedule M was made applicable to existing manufacturers from 1st July 2005.

6. Specific training programme for regulatory officials of State Government on logistics of intelligence work, prosecutions, etc. has been conducted.

7. Pharma industry and trade has been requested to fight menace of spurious drugs as a shared responsibility. This would help in successfully detecting the cases of spurious drugs by regulatory authorities.

8. A meeting with representative of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Commissioner Customs and all port officers has been held to deliberate on modalities for absolute confiscation and prosecutions in cases of import of spurious drugs.

9. Pharmaceutical Zones, dedicated areas for handling import and export of drugs are being developed at Port offices.

10. A whistle blower policy is being formulated whereby rewards would be given to the informers for detection of spurious drugs.

Food and medical facilities to undernourished population

3736. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that malnutrition is India's crucial problem and about 230 million people in the country are undernourished suffering from diseases and ill health;

(b) whether Government knows the startling fact that the undernourished people in India constitute 27 per cent of the world's undernourished population; and

(c) if so, what measures are being taken to provide adequate nutritious food and medical facilities to the undernourished people?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) As per National Family Health Survey (NFHS-III) – 2005-06, about 42.5% children under 5 years, 36% women in the age group 15-49 years and 34% men in the age group 15-49 years are undernourished in the country.

(b) Specific information in this regard is not available.

(c) The Government has initiated various measures to improve the health and nutritional status of vulnerable population including:

1. Integrated Child Development Services Schemes (ICDS) including Supplementary nutrition.
2. Emphasis on appropriate Infant and Young Child Feeding.
3. National Programme of Nutritional support to Primary Education (Mid day meal Programme).
4. Specific Programme to prevent and combat micronutrient deficiencies of Vitamin A and Iron and Folic Acid through Vitamin A supplementation for children till the age of 5 years and Iron and Folic Acid supplementation for Pre-school Children, pregnant and lactating women. Iron and Folic Acid syrup has been added in the programme for children 6 to 59 months.
5. National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme (NIDDCP).
6. Nutrition Education to increase the awareness and bring about desired changes in the dietary practices including the promotion of breast feeding and dietary diversification.
7. Treatment of severe acute malnutrition through Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs) set up at public health facilities.
8. Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illness and malnutrition.
9. Immunization.
10. Maternal Health by promoting institutional deliveries improved coverage and quality of ANC skilled care to Pregnant women, Post- partum care at community level.
11. Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY)

Vaccination for childhood pneumonia

3737. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is apart beneficiary of the grants made by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation meant for prevention of childhood pneumonia by vaccination;

(b) whether Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) is globally monitoring the vaccination programme including India;

(c) whether independent critical appraisal has established low efficacy of the vaccine as reported in lancet journal and also the bulletin of the WHO; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?